

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FIELD DIARY

OF

Mr. Vernon Bailey
Yellowstone Park
(Official title.)
1917

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D. F. Houston

Secretary of Agriculture.

8-2887

1917

Sept. 1, Left Glacier Park at 6 AM for Yellowstone Park via Shelby Junction, Great Falls & Helena.

A frosty morning but clear and beautiful. The mountains are white down to the timber with freshly fallen snow. Yellow Mountain and Chief stand out with especial brilliancy in pure white robes.

The grass on the plains is yellow. Citellus richardsoni are numerous and active.

Prairie dogs numerous along the road from Shelby to Great Falls.

Reached Great Falls at 1:30 PM & Helena at 4 PM. & left Helena at 9 for Livingston.

Sept. 2 Reached Livingston at 3:50 AM & went to Park Hotel till breakfast & train time at 9:25 when we left for Gardiner. Arrived at Gardiner 11 AM. Got mail & unpacked baggage for trip in Yellowstone.

Sept. 3 - Took stage to Mammoth Hot Springs & saw Mr. Lindley & got permit for collecting & talked over plans for work & about the animals.

Mamota, one seen near Obsidian
cliffs

Sept. 4 - Took stage at 8:30
for Upper Geyser Basin & arrived
at Old Faithful camp at 12:30
on big, comfortable Auto bus.
Saw very little along way.
dry & dusty, but roads well
sprinkled most of way.

Saw 3 black bears at Grubbs
pile back of hotel, all large & old &
very fat.

Found Ochetos & Neotoma in
cliffs across river & mile west
of Old Faithful.

Whe

Sept. 5. Went to Summit Lake,
about 10 miles west of camp.
and back on foot. All the way
through lodgepole pine woods to
a beautiful little lake on top of
divides. At lunch at the Snowshoe
cabins and took photographs of lake &
cabins.

Pure Canadian zone all the way.
Pinus murrayana the principal tree, but
some spruce & fir and on rocky ridges
a little *Pinus albicaulis*. *Larix laricina*
canadensis in shady gulches &
Vaccinium erythrococcum carpets the
woods. A few little meadows but
only one place where water could
be found, in the creek about half
way to the lake.

The lake is about a quarter of a
mile across, shallow, with marshy
shores and beautiful woods all around.
Some large *Piceas* & open woods.

Sept 5
Elk, saw 9 near river

Traders at Summit Lake, mostly old.
Moose, one track crossed trail,
a little old winter sign.

Blue deer, a few tracks

Sciurus, abn. cutting all cones & some tips

Eutamias luteiventris, abn. along valley

" consobrinus, all over plateau

Callospermophilus, 1 seen near Summit Lake.

Thomomys hills, abn.

Neotoma - abn. in all rocks.

Bears, ~~#~~ Blacks com:

Grizzly, one big trader, 6 in. on Pinus
albicaulis ridge, one old & seals along
road.

Eptisiurus fuscus, com. last lot

Myotis, " "

Noctivagus? " "

Sept. 6, Took saddle horse &
went to Shoshone Lake & back.
about 10 miles each way.

Met Skinner at lake & he came
back with us.

Saw one old large grizzly in
woods. Saw bear signs full of nuts
from pinus albicaulis & green plants,
probably thistle.

Rained & hailed.

Canadian gone all the way.

A weasel, P. arizonensis, in
light brown coat and yellow belly
stood up on a log and looked at
me boldly. He was in the woods
near Lone Star Geyser.

Porcupine trees are common.

Sept. 7. Went over to the cliffs
a mile west of the Hotel &
hunted for *Ocotilla*. Found
plenty of them & also woodrats
& chipmunks & squirrels
and signs of rabbit & porcupine
& caught a *Thomomys peruanus*
Saw a coyote hunting grasshoppers
in meadows where they were often.
Saw lots of bear tracks & trails
and beds and in evening
an old grizzly & 2 big cubs
came to the garbage pile at dusk
7 P.M. this regular thing. They
came up the trail from the woods
on a rapid shuffle walk that
carried them along faster than
a man would walk. They came
right in and began eating
without the slightest hesitation. The
20 people were lined up behind the
wire to greet them.

Soon another old big fellow
came up the same trail and
walked rapidly into the garbage pile
& close to the old bear & cubs without
any fuss or friction. Another
old big fellow came up 5 minutes
later & the mother bear made a
little rush at him & a woop,
but he paid no attention to it &
all seemed on very friendly
terms & all together went back.

One black bear, rather small,
came up while they were there,
but came well around out of
reach and when one of the
soldiers called "Pete," he came
across the creek and took crackers
& sugar and candy from
their hands of anybody who
would hold out his hand and
call Pete. He was totally
unafraid of people. The 30 is

were crowded around him most of the time, but he kept one eye on the quizzicks & if they moved his way made a quick start the other way.

There are said to be more quizzicks than blacks here & sometimes 9 or 10 are at the Gauchos together.

There has been no trouble with them but this summer.

Sept. 8 - Caught *Neotoma* + *Peromyscus*
+ *Eutamias*

Left Old Faithful camp at 1:30
+ arrived at Yellowstone Lake
camp at 4:30.

Crossed the 2 summits of the
continental divide at 8300 feet.
Followed up Spring creek after leaving
Finnell River at near its head
found great rock slides and
others at the first summit, where
Ochetosia were seen and their holes
under the rocks. Also lots of
Neotoma stick houses in the rocks
and white streakings on the cliffs
at Upper Cascade, along the
Finnell River + Spring creek canyon
and again the cliffs under the
Natural Bridge were thickly spotted +
streaked with white.

Saw *Eutamias amoenus* on summit
+ 3 *Marmota* ^{nutty} east of summit.

Sept. 9 Worked along north end
of lake and down river, caught 5
Microtus namus & a *Thomomys* species
Made up skins & wrote notes.

Sept. 10 Went to Buttes a mile west
of Soldier Station & found lots of
Microtus in rock slides and old
signs & old hay of *Microtus* but
no fresh signs of them.

Photographed bear beds & pine squirrels.

In P.M. Went to The Canyon
Camp at Yellowstone Falls
Saw 3 black bears back of camp.
They were common until the order
went out not to feed them & now
they do not come around much.

At the hotel dump there are
said to be 6 or 7 grizzlies as
regular visitors at 7 P.M.
and one old grizzly has 3 cubs.

Twelve to fifteen blades come to
the garbage in the afternoon,
about 2 P M usually, but
not when the grizzlies are there.
Mr. Skinner says one grizzly
was shot this summer because
he stole a lot of bacon & lard
from his tent and from some
of the other tents.

Sept. 11, Went down the canyon
to Inspiration point. Saw 6 nests
of fish hawks on tops of pinnacles
in the canyon, two had young
birds in the & some others
were used by the old birds to
eat fish on.

Saw lots of woodchucks & a few
chipmunks & lutreous, & plenty
of Neotoma signs. Saw one mule
deer doe on edge of canyon.

Left at 1:30 PM for Tower
Falls and Mammoth Hot Springs.
over Deeraven Pass and along
the side of Mt. Washburn.

Saw nothing along way except
a mule deer buck in Blacktail
canyon.

Arrived at 5 PM & got
wired.

Sept. 12, Hunted for *Eutamias*
amabilis along the Shoshone
cliffs but did not find any.
Got *Ochetos* + returned to
camp at Mammoth Hot Springs

Sept. 13 Went up through the
Golden Gate to Swan Lake Valley
and got *Eutamias pallidus*
instead of *pictus* which I
expected. Saw *concolorinus*
and *leuciventeris* on the rocks
near the springs and in the Gate.
Saw one Mammoth and several
Callospermophilus + lots of *Ochetos*
in the Gate and among the Hoodoos.
Returned to camp and down
to Gardiner in evening.

Sept. 14 - Packed up specimens
and repacked baggage and
Took 11 AM train for Livingston
and left there at 4:45 PM.
for Mandan, North Dakota.

Raining and the mountains
are white down into the timber
with new fallen snow.
Roads slippery and muddy &
weather cold and raw.

Sept. 15 - Reached Mandan
at 8:40 and got a 2 o'clock
train to Cannonball where
I hope to find the beaver mouse.

Sept. 16 - Tramped over the flats along the Camerball River, The beans, Falcata ~~corn~~ are abundant but I could find no trace of where they had been stored.

Sept. 17 - Tramped over the bottomlands along the Camerball & Missouri rivers all day and found oceans of bean vines & beans but none that had been stored. and no signs of any insect that are gathering them. Set traps among the vines and baited them with beans to see what is eating them.

Sept. 18 - Caught 4 Eutamias
g. loringi in the 7 traps out and
baited with mouse beans, but
this does not prove the mouse
to be the stores.

The Indians all say the
mice do not store them until
late in Oct. or in November.
and they will not even look
for them now. Most of the
Indians have gone to the fair
at Mandan so I can not
get them to help me.

Dr. Beebe is at Ft. Yates.

Elephantella

Yellowstone Park.

Sept. 1917

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Bureau of Biological Survey.

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Castilleja exilis

Mammoth Hot Springs

Y.N.P.

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